

of Chambers of Commerce throughout the country have earned this distinction.

The Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce continues to perform outstanding work in representing and promoting its citizens and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. I congratulate its members on seventy successful years, and thank them for the work they are doing to make Virginia a better place to live, work and raise a family.●

TRIBUTE TO ROCK SPRINGS CHURCH

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to a very special group of people in my home State who will soon celebrate an important 1-year anniversary.

Deep in the heart of Georgia, right in the middle of my former House district, a small Congregational Methodist Church has been ministering to the people in their community for more than 150 years. This small town church is making a big difference in many lives across my State. Since 1852, this group of Christians has faithfully gathered each Sunday in the halls of a humble church building to worship God and seek His guidance for their lives.

It is clear that God has heard and answered their prayers. One year ago, under the leadership of my good friend of Dr. Benny Tate, Rock Springs Church in Milner opened the doors to their new sanctuary—a room that seats more than double that of the previous sanctuary. The new sanctuary has equipped this thriving church with the tools they need to minister to even more folks than ever in the long life of this church.

I am personally encouraged by the dedication of this congregation to do whatever it takes to see that they could provide a place of worship for the growing number of people attending Sunday services.

As the son of a minister, I spent my youth traveling across the southeast, as my dad served in the Episcopal Church. I know first hand the challenges of church leadership and the joys of seeing God answer prayers.

Dr. Tate, known by his friends as Pastor Benny, has demonstrated remarkable vision and direction as the head pastor of Rock Springs Church. My wife Julianne and I have had the opportunity to attend Rock Springs Church as Pastor Benny's guests on "Friend Day" and the parishioners there always make us feel welcome.

I am proud to recognize my friends at Rock Springs Church in celebration of this momentous occasion and encourage each new member to reflect on the offerings and sacrifice on the part of those faithful few who helped make this new sanctuary a reality.●

LIBRARY OF THE YEAR

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today

to honor the Fayetteville Public Library which was recently named the 2005 "Library of the Year" by Thompson Gale and Library Journal. The Library of the Year Award honors the library that is most dedicated to community service through its creativity and leadership. Thompson Gale and Library Journal will present a check for \$10,000 to the Fayetteville Public Library later this month during the American Library Association's annual conference in Chicago, IL.

I would like to recognize Louise Schapter, Executive Director of the Fayetteville Public Library, and her outstanding staff for their commitment to providing such a quality community resource to the citizens of Northwest Arkansas. During Ms. Schapter's tenure, library usage has soared. Visits have increased from 192,179 to 576,773, checkouts have risen from 271,187 to 718,159, program attendance has grown from 14,448 to 41,658, and cardholders have leaped from 15,662 to 48,419. What a remarkable accomplishment!

I would also like to mention that the library has more than 160 regular volunteers who deliver books to the homebound, shelve and cover books, staff the computer lab and conduct various programs. This involvement by the community is truly commendable and makes all of us in Arkansas proud.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fayetteville Public Library on receiving this well-deserved honor.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOO LOCKS

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, this year marks the 150th anniversary of one of our Nation's most visionary engineering feats—the construction of the world famous Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, MI. The Soo Locks shaped the course of our Nation's history and have become a key part of Michigan's cultural heritage. There will be a grand celebration on Engineers Day, June 24, to kick off a summer of special events in commemoration of this significant anniversary.

The St. Mary's River is the connection between Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes. The challenge with this natural link is the 21-foot drop in elevation between Lake Superior and the lower lakes which creates the St. Mary's Rapids. Early traders were forced to unload their cargo, haul it around the rapids by land, and then reload it into other boats. And if it wasn't for the vision of three men, Alpheus Felch, Pierre Barbeau, and James P. Pendill, we might still be using the same shipping methods today.

The story of the Soo Locks really begins in 1850 when two Senators from Michigan, Lewis Cass and Alpheus Felch, realized the need for a large-scale lock system at the Soo in order to transport iron ore from Michigan

Hills to the mills in Pennsylvania and Ohio. As a former governor of Michigan, Senator Felch took charge of the project. He met with Mayor Pierre Barbeau and the two convinced the people of the Soo to vote to build the locks. Now that they had the public's support, they needed the materials for construction. The lumber for this ambitious project was provided by James Pendill, who owned the land that would be later gifted to the American public as Hiawatha National Forest. Construction began in 1853 and a system of two 350-foot locks was designated. The State locks opened in 1855.

It soon became clear that the State lock and canal were of national importance for commerce. In 1881, the locks were transferred to the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps operates and maintains the locks to this day. The lock system gives safe passage to a variety of ships and creates the major artery for shipping and trade in the Great Lakes.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the Soo Locks and the vision of the people of Michigan.●

TRIBUTE TO MCCROSSAN BOYS RANCH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate the McCrossan Boys Ranch of South Dakota. McCrossan Boys Ranch is a nonprofit organization that provides mentoring services to troubled boys and helps guide them into becoming responsible and balanced adults.

Some of the valuable services they provide are education and GED classes, help with chemical dependency, individual and group therapy, psychiatric care and moral development.

They will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on June 29 and I would like to recognize the valuable service they have provided to the many boys and families they have helped over the years.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2863. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), amended by public law 108-375, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.